

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for use in a printing device having a printzone in which printing composition is deposited on a print medium, comprising:
 - a print medium drive mechanism configured to advance the print medium through the printzone;
 - a pinch roller mechanism biased against the print medium drive mechanism and configured to deflect away from the print medium drive mechanism as the print medium passes between the pinch roller mechanism and print medium drive mechanism; and
 - a proximity sensor configured to measure the extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism.
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a processing device coupled to the proximity sensor and configured to determine a thickness of the print medium based on the measured extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism.
3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the proximity sensor is further configured to output a signal indicative of the extent of deflection of the pinch roller mechanism and the processing device is further configured to receive the signal from the proximity sensor and determine the print medium thickness based on this signal.
4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the processing device is further configured to enable initial deposition of printing composition on the print medium by the printing device after receiving the signal from the proximity sensor.
5. The apparatus of Claim 1, in a printing device.
6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the print medium drive mechanism includes a drive roller.
7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proximity sensor is positioned adjacent the pinch roller mechanism.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the proximity sensor is integral with the pinch roller mechanism.
9. An apparatus for use in a printing device having a printzone in which printing composition is deposited on a print medium, comprising:
- a print medium drive mechanism configured to advance the print medium through the printzone;
 - a shim biased against the print medium drive mechanism and configured to deflect away from the print medium drive mechanism as the print medium passes between the shim and print medium drive mechanism; and
 - a proximity sensor configured to measure the extent of deflection of the shim.
10. The apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising a processing device coupled to the proximity sensor and configured to determine a thickness of the print medium based on the measured extent of deflection of the shim.
11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the proximity sensor is further configured to output a signal indicative of the extent of deflection of the shim and the processing device is further configured to receive the signal from the proximity sensor and determine the print medium thickness based on this signal.
12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the processing device is further configured to enable initial deposition of printing composition on the print medium by the printing device after receiving the signal from the proximity sensor.
13. The apparatus of Claim 9, in a printing device.
14. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the print medium drive mechanism includes a drive roller.
15. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the proximity sensor is positioned adjacent the shim.

16. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the proximity sensor is integral with the shim.

17. A method for use in a printing device having a printzone in which printing composition is deposited on a print medium and a print medium transport mechanism through which the print medium passes, comprising:

advancing the print medium through the printzone via the print medium transport mechanism;

measuring a deflection of a component of the print medium transport mechanism as the print medium passes therethrough; and

determining a thickness of the print medium based on the measured extent of deflection.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein the component of the print medium transport mechanism is a pinch roller.

19. The method of Claim 17, wherein the component of the print medium transport mechanism is a shim.

20. The method of Claim 17, wherein the print medium transport mechanism includes a drive roller.

21. The method of Claim 17, further comprising enabling initial deposition of printing composition on the print medium by the printing device after the print medium passes through the print medium transport mechanism.

22. An apparatus for use in a print device having a printzone in which printing composition is deposited on a print medium, comprising:

means for advancing the print medium through the printzone;

sensor means for generating a signal in proportion to a deflection of a component of the means for advancing as the print medium passes therethrough; and

means for determining a thickness of the print medium based on the signal from the sensor means.

23. The apparatus of Claim 22; in a printing device.

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